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**United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky Applauds
WTO Trade and Environment Conference**

Today United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky applauded the WTO High Level Symposium on Trade and Environment which concluded this afternoon in Geneva, Switzerland. The two day meeting, which was called for by President Clinton at the May 1998 WTO Ministerial, brought together for the first time high level trade and environment officials, environmental NGOs, and the business community.

“We welcome this unprecedented meeting and the important momentum it has brought to the WTO’s work on trade and the environment,” stated Ambassador Barshefsky. “The discussions that took place at this meeting lay the groundwork for further constructive dialogue on these issues both in the context of the WTO’s ongoing work, and the new Round of trade negotiations that will be launched at the 1999 WTO Ministerial in Seattle.”

At this meeting, the United States pressed for increased transparency and openness of the WTO and for WTO action to eliminate subsidies that contribute to over-fishing. The United States also proposed the establishment of a WTO mechanism to ensure that the environmental implications of the new Round are taken into account from the beginning to the end of the negotiations.

The U.S. delegation consisted of Susan Esserman, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Designate; Frank Loy, Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs; Peter Robertson, EPA Acting Deputy Administrator; and Terry Garcia, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere; as well as other senior agency and White House officials.